

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for marking a processing stack with signatures to indicate which portions of the stack were utilized by which software code modules, said method comprising the step of:
 - 5 assigning unique module identifier values to a plurality of code modules; and
 - upon execution of said code modules, pushing onto a processing stack said unique module identifiers within stack frames allocated to said code modules.
- 10 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - generating an instance number for each instantiation of a code module;
 - and
 - pushing onto said processing stack said instance numbers associated with said unique module identifier values.
- 15 3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of pushing onto said stack an entry/exit indicator associated with said unique module identifier.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of inserting stack signature marking software segments into application source code, said insertion step being performed prior to compilation of said application source code.
- 20

5. The method as set forth in Claim 4 further comprising the step of providing a global control which indicates all application source code modules are to have stack signature marking software segments inserted into them during a given compilation job.
- 5 6. The method as set forth in Claim 4 further comprising the step of providing a selective control which indicates only certain application source code modules are to have stack signature marking software segments inserted into them during a given compilation job.
- 10 7. A computer readable medium encoded with software for marking a processing stack with signatures to indicate which portions of the stack were utilized by which application code modules, said software causing a processor to perform the steps of:
- assigning unique module identifier values to a plurality of code modules; and
- 15 upon execution of said code modules, pushing onto a processing stack said unique module identifiers within stack frames allocated to said code modules.
8. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 7 further comprising software to perform the steps of:
- 20 generating an instance number for each instantiation of a code module; and
- pushing onto said processing stack said instance numbers associated

- with said unique module identifier values.
9. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 7 further comprising software for performing the step of pushing onto said stack an entry/exit indicator associated with said unique module identifier.
- 5 10. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 7 further comprising software for performing the step of inserting stack signature marking software segments into application source code, said insertion step being performed prior to compilation of said application source code.
11. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 10 further comprising software for performing the step of providing a global control which indicates all application source code modules are to have stack signature marking software segments inserted into them during a given compilation job.
- 10 12. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 10 further comprising software for performing the step of providing a selective control which indicates only certain application source code modules are to have stack signature marking software segments inserted into them during a given compilation job.
- 15 13. A system for inserting stack signature marking code segments into application software modules prior to compilation, said system cooperating with a compiler and comprising:
- 20 a control means operable by a user to indicate whether or not to insert stack signature marking code segments into application software modules; and

control means, searches for entry points and exits points in application software modules and inserts stack signature marking code segments following each entry point and prior to each exit point into said application software modules.

14. The system of Claim 14 wherein said control means comprises a global control means for indicating insertion of stack signature marking code segments are to be inserted into all application software modules to be compiled.

10 15. The system of Claim 15 wherein said control means comprises a selective control means for indicating specific applications software modules or groups of application software modules into which stack signature marking code segments are to be inserted.